Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties number: B-4586

Name: SISSON ST. OVER CHESSIE SYSTEM

The bridge referenced herein was inventoried by the Maryland State Highway Administration as part of the Historic Bridge Inventory, and SHA provided the Trust with eligibility determinations in February 2001. The Trust accepted the Historic Bridge Inventory on April 3, 2001. The bridge received the following determination of eligibility.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Eligibility Recommended _____ Eligibility Not Recommended __X____

Criteria: ____A ____B ____C ____D Considerations: ___A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G __None

Comments:_____

_____

_____

Reviewer, OPS: _Anne E. Bruder_____ Date: __3 April 2001____

Reviewer, NR Program: __Peter E. Kurtze_____ Date: __3 April 2001____

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties MHT Number B-4586
Historic Bridge Inventory
Maryland State Highway Administration
Maryland Historical Trust

Name and SHA No. BC 8031

Location:
Street/Road Name and Number: Sisson Street over Chessie System

City/Town: Baltimore Vicinity __

County: _____

Ownership: __State__County_X_Municipal__Other

This bridge projects over: __Road_X_Railway__Water__Land

Is the bridge located within a designated district:__yes_X_no

__NR listed district__NR determined eligible district
__locally designated__other
Name of District_____

Bridge Type:

__Timber Bridge
__Beam Bridge__Truss-Covered__Trestle
__Timber-and-Concrete

__Stone Arch

__Metal Truss

__Movable Bridge
__Swing __Bascule Single Leaf__Bascule Multiple Leaf
__Vertical Lift__Retractile__Pontoon

_X_Metal Girder
__Rolled Girder __Rolled Girder Concrete Encased
_X_Plate Girder __Plate Girder Concrete Encased

__Metal Suspension

__Metal Arch

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__Metal Cantilever

__Concrete
__Concrete Arch __Concrete Slab__Concrete Beam
__Rigid Frame
__Other Type Name_____

Description:

Describe Setting:

Bridge Number BC8031 carries Sisson Street in a generally north-south direction over Chessie System tracks in the City of Baltimore, Maryland. The approach to the roadway is level and has two lanes. The area around this bridge is urban although the area of the tracks is overgrown with brush. The structures in the vicinity of this bridge are generally from the twentieth century.

Describe Superstructure and Substructure:

Bridge number BC8031 is a three span structure, measuring 127 feet in total length.Bridge Number BC8031 is a concrete encased plate girder deck bridge. The roadway width from curb to curb is 21 feet and the total deck width is 26 feet. There are sidewalks on both sides of the bridge and the width of each is 2.5 feet.

The superstructure is composed of a welded steel plate girder encased in concrete. There are one span in the main bridge unit and two in the approach units. The longest span is 87 feet long. There are four stringers in the structure. The stringer spacing averages four feet. The floor system is composed of concrete cast-in-place. There are no parapets. There are heavy metal guard railings on either side of the bridge. There is little ornamentation, other than the handsome railings. There are no historical plaques.

The substructure is composed of concrete full height abutments and concrete wingwalls. The piers with triple open columns are also concrete. There is no ornamentation. There are no historical plaques.

The condition of this bridge is currently rated fair with minor section loss, deterioration and spalling.

Discuss Major Alterations:

There have been several major alterations to this structure. These largest occurred in 1950 and involved extensive alterations, and entailed a replacement of the deck, road surface and joints. The railings were replaced in 1989.

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History:
When Built:1914 and Reconstructed in 1950
Why Built: Increased traffic density necessitated a structure with an increased load capacity.
Who Built: State Roads Commission
Why Altered: Structural Problems
Was this bridge built as part of an organized bridge building campaign: Bridge built for a hazardous grade elimination program.

Surveyor Analysis:
This bridge may have NR significance for association with:
__A Events __Person
__C Engineering/Architectural

Was this bridge constructed in response to significant events in Maryland or local history:

No. In 1899 the Maryland Geological Survey published "Report on the Highways of Maryland." This report found Maryland bridges to generally be in poor condition. Reforms were recommended to improve this problem. One of the solutions involved the use of modern steel girders to replace iron and timber bridges.

When the bridge was built and/or given a major alteration, did it have a significant impact on the growth and development of the area?

No. Bridge BC8031 did not have a significant impact on this area. This structure was built to satisfy local needs but its function can be met through other transportation options. Bridge BC8031 certainly had an impact on the immediate concerns of locals, other options keep this impact from being significant.

Is the bridge located in an area which may be eligible for historic designation and would the bridge add to or detract from historic and visual character of the possible district?

Yes. Bridge BC8031 is located in an area that has had an important and significant impact on the history of Baltimore, Maryland. The neighborhoods of Charles Village and Mount Vernon are vital segments of Baltimore history. This structure served both these neighborhoods and the industry where the locals probably worked. Several areas already are eligible for historic designation and the expansion of any or all of these areas would entail the inclusion of this bridge. The loss of this bridge would negatively impact the historic and visual significance of these areas.

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Is the bridge a significant example of its type?

No. Bridge BC8031 is a common type of metal girder bridge. Metal girder bridges were built prolifically in Maryland from the late nineteenth century to the present day. There is nothing to set this bridge apart from others of its type. There are numerous other examples of this bridge available.

Does the bridge retain integrity of the important elements described in the Context Addendum?

No. Bridge Number BC8031 does not retain important elements of its historical structural integrity. The primary character defining elements are replacements from the 1950 reconstruction.

Should this bridge be given further study before significance analysis is made and Why?

No. This bridge does not retain sufficient elements of historical structural integrity to qualify for further study.

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Bibliography:

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1900-15 Annual Report of the Chief Engineer. Baltimore, Maryland.

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1917-24 Annual Report of the Highways Engineer. Baltimore, Maryland.

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Spero, P.A.C. & Company, and Louis Berger & Associates
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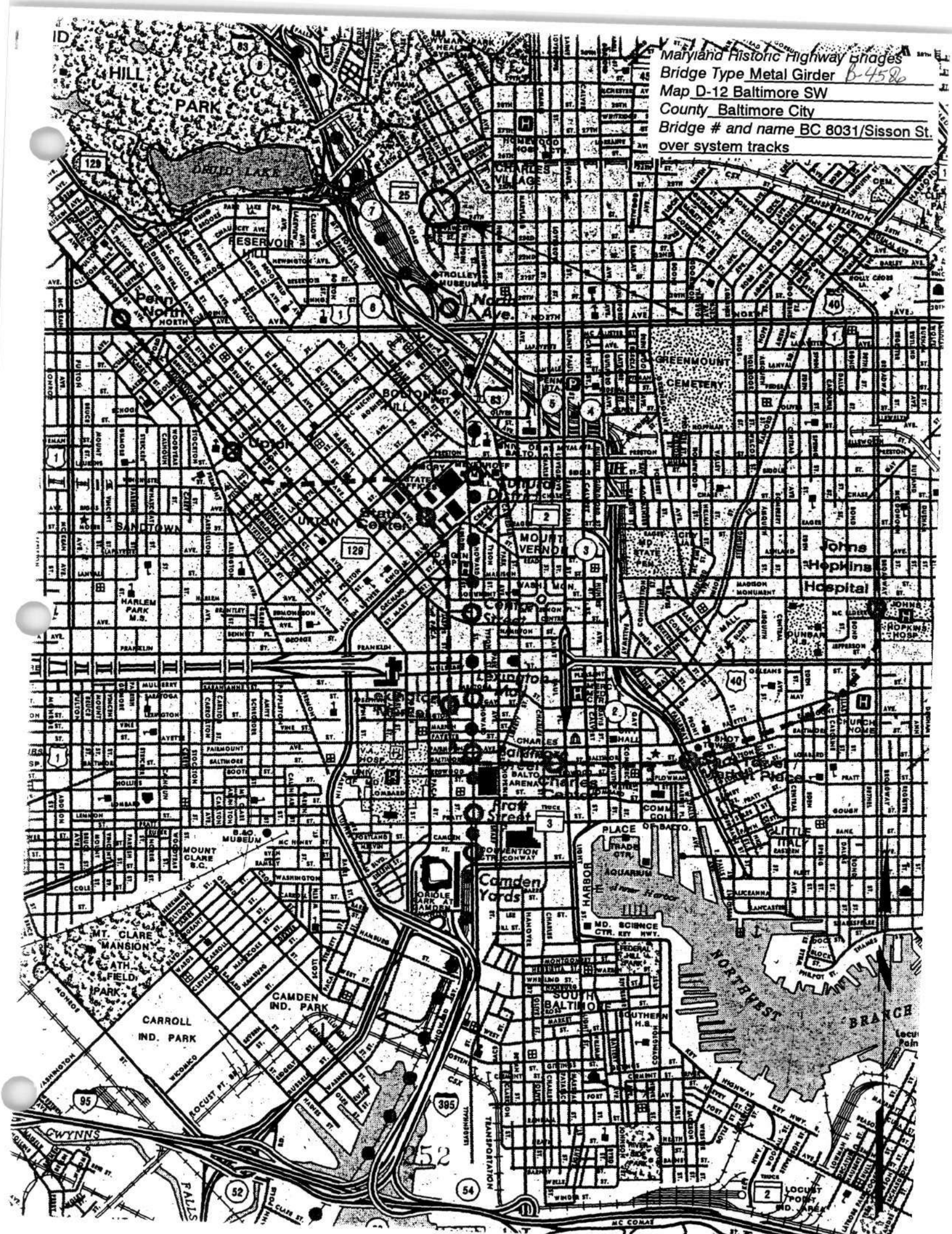
State Highway Administration
1993 Bridge Inventory. Baltimore, Maryland.

U.S. Department of the Interior
1990 National Register Bulletin Number 15. National Park Service. Washington D.C.

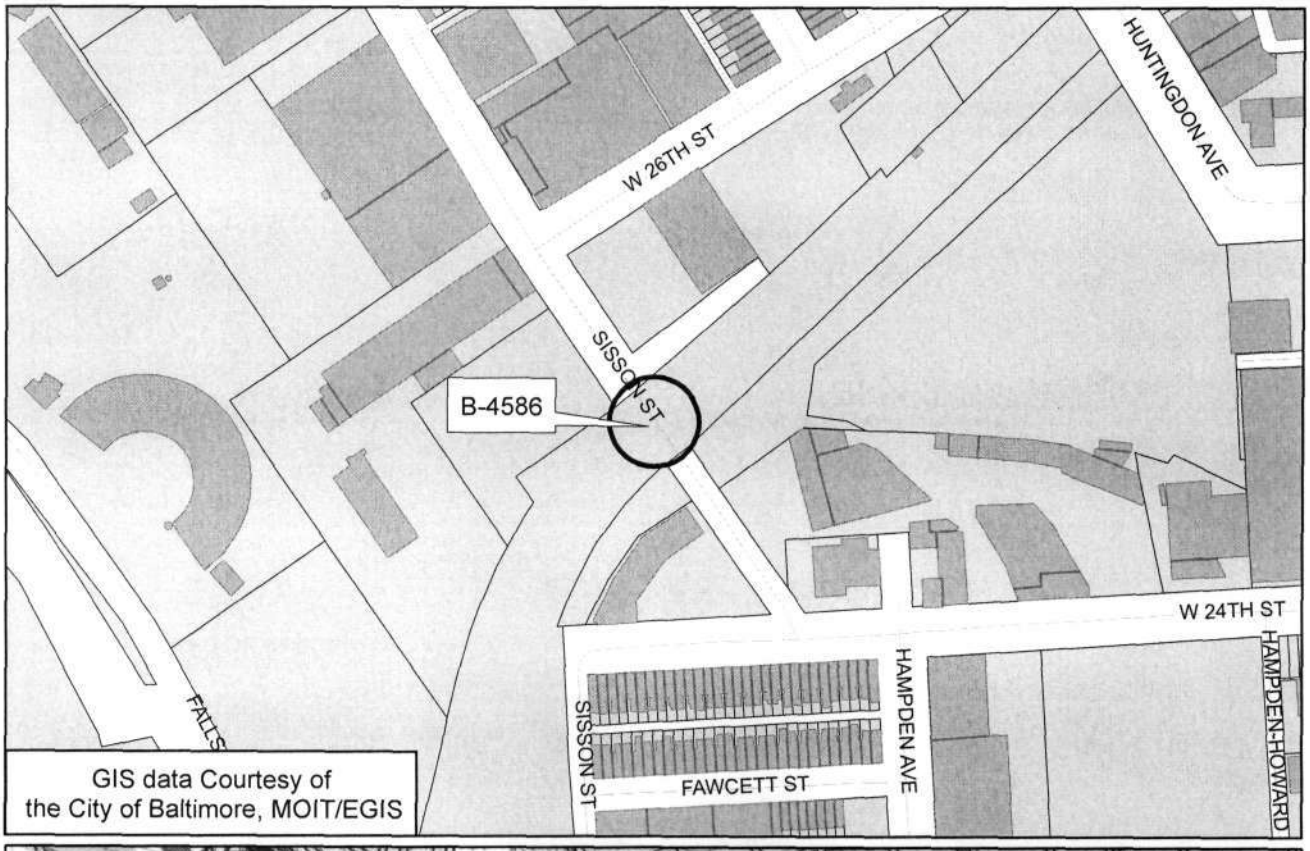
U.S. Department of Transportation
1991 Bridge Inspectors Manual. Federal Highway Administration. Washington D.C.

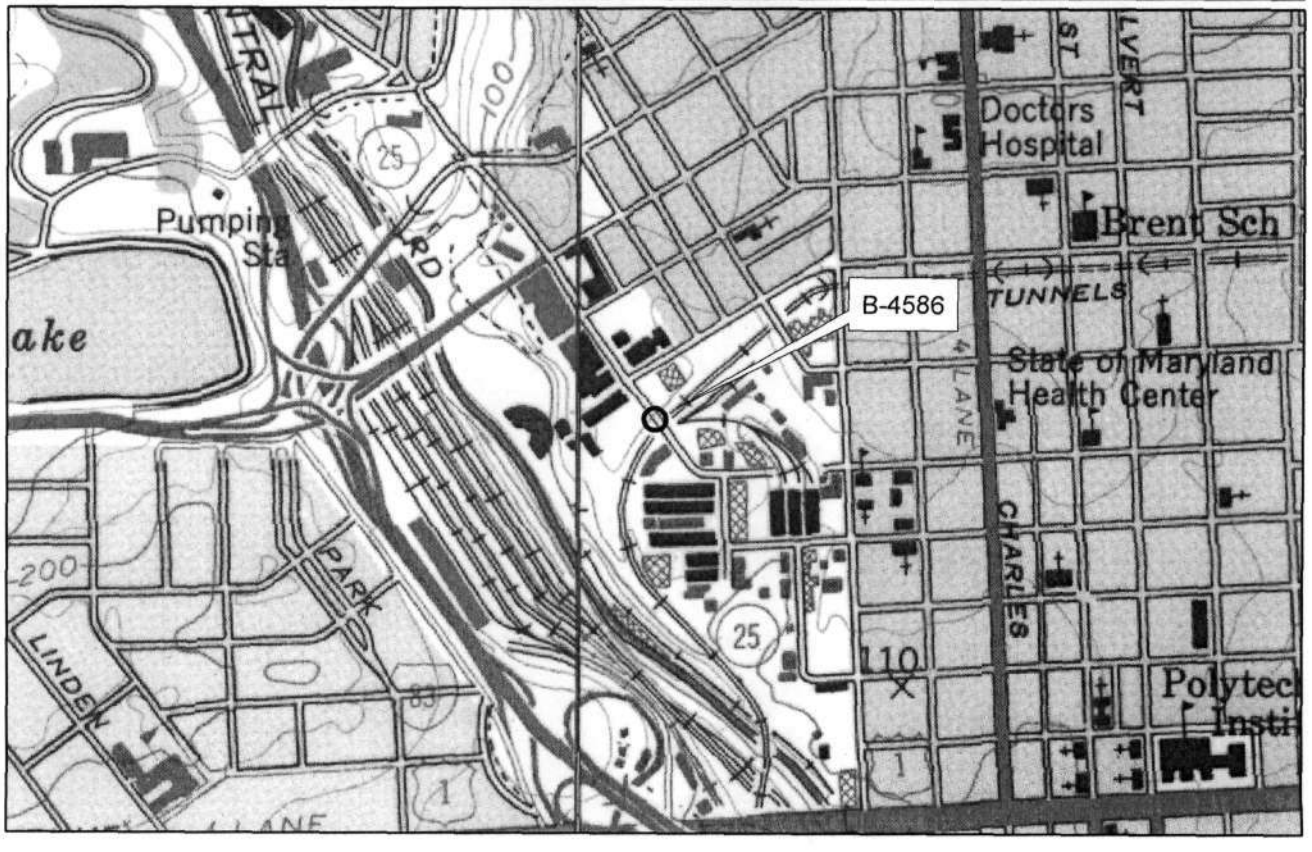
Surveyor:

Name: Andrew M. Watts **Date:** March 1996
Organization: State Highway Administration **Telephone:** (410) 321-2213
Address: 2323 West Joppa Road, Brooklandville, MD 21022


Maryland Historic Highway Bridges
Bridge Type Metal Girder B-458
Map D-12 Baltimore SW
County Baltimore City
Bridge # and name BC 8031/Sisson St.
over system tracks
HILL
PARK
DRUID LAKE
RESERVOIR HILL
Penn North
North Ave.
GREENMOUNT CEMETERY
SANDTOWN
UNION
HARLEM PARK M.S.
MOUNT VERNON
Johns Hopkins Hospital
MOUNT CLARE B.O.
B&O MUSEUM
Camden Yards
ORIOLE PARK AT CAMDEN
MT. CLARE MANSION
ATH. FIELD PARK
CAMDEN IND. PARK
CARROLL IND. PARK
SOUTH BALTIMORE
NORTHWEST BRANCH
GWYNNS FALLS
252

B-4586
Bridge 8031
Sisson Street over CSX Railroad
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad





Inventory # B-4586

Name 8031- SISSON STREET OVER CHESSIE SYSTEM
County/State BALTIMORE CITY / MD
Name of Photographer TIM SCHOEN
Date 1/95

Location of Negative SHA

Description SOUTH APPROACH

Number 1 ~~32~~ of ~~31~~ 4

Inventory # B-4586

Name BO31 - SISSON STREET OVER CHESSIE SYSTEM
County/State BALTIMORE CITY / MD
Name of Photographer TIM SCHEEN
Date 1/95

Location of Negative SHA

Description WEST ELEVATION

Number 2 ~~33~~ of ~~37~~ 4

Inventory # B-4586

Name 8031 - SISSON STREET OVER CHESSIE SYSTEM

County/State BALTIMORE CITY/MD

Name of Photographer TIM SCHEEN

Date 1/95

Location of Negative SHA

Description EAST ELEVATION

Number 3 of 4

Inventory # B-4586

Name 8031-SISSON STREET OVER CHESSIE SYSTEM
County/State BALTIMORE CITY/MD
Name of Photographer TIM SCHUEN
Date 1/95

Location of Negative SHA

Description NORTH APPROACH

Number ~~35~~ 4 of ~~37~~ 4